

House File 2341

HOUSE FILE _____
BY MAY

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to waivers for early school start dates and year
2 around schools.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 6132YH 82
5 kh/rj/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 2, Code 2007, is
1 2 amended to read as follows:
1 3 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
1 4 any proposal for a pilot program pursuant to subsection 3
1 5 prior to submitting it a request to the department of
1 6 education for approval.
1 7 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2007, is
1 8 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu
1 9 thereof the following:
1 10 4. The board of directors of a school district may submit
1 11 an application to the director or the department of education
1 12 requesting a waiver from the earliest school start date
1 13 requirement of subsection 1 in order to conduct educational
1 14 research. The application shall include the scope and
1 15 objectives of the educational research the school district
1 16 intends to conduct. The director of the department of
1 17 education may approve waivers for not more than three school
1 18 districts.

EXPLANATION

1 19 This bill eliminates the department of education's
1 20 unlimited authority to approve school districts' requests to
1 21 waive the earliest school start date requirement. The bill
1 22 limits the director of the department to issuing waivers to
1 23 not more than three school districts and to issue the waivers
1 24 only to school districts conducting educational research. A
1 25 school district must include in its application the scope and
1 26 objectives of the educational research to be conducted.
1 27 Currently, the school year can begin no sooner than a day
1 28 during the calendar week in which the first day of September
1 29 falls, or, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday, on
1 30 a day during the calendar week which immediately precedes the
1 31 first day of September. School districts currently are
1 32 granted waivers authorizing an earlier start date if the
1 33 director of the department of education determines that a
1 34 starting date on or after the earliest starting date would
2 1 have a significant negative educational impact.
2 2 The bill includes a technical correction.
2 3 LSB 6132YH 82
2 4 kh/rj/8